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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
First session
Rome, 29 September-10 October 1997
Agenda item 7 (d)

# ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AND OTHER DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: DESIGNATION OF A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS FUNCTIONING

Note by the Secretariat

Decision 10/17 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee is reproduced below for the convenience of delegations to the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

GE.97-80117 (E)

Decision 10/17

Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: procedure for selection of the city to host the permanent secretariat

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling its decision 9/2 and following the recommendation of the Contact Group on the physical location of the permanent secretariat that met on 19 August 1997 during the resumed tenth session of the Committee,

Recommends to the Conference of the Parties at its first session the following procedure for the selection of the city to host the permanent secretariat:

(a) An informal and confidential poll should be conducted among countries that are parties to the Convention that are present on the day of the poll for the purpose of obtaining a consensus on the physical location of the permanent secretariat;

(b) The poll should be carried out in a plenary meeting on Friday, 3 October 1997, under the chairmanship of the President of the Conference, under the direct supervision of the Chairman of the Contact Group and with the support of the secretariat;

(c) Only accredited delegates of parties will participate. It is, therefore, essential that parties provide their letters of credentials as early as possible to allow the Bureau of the Conference, acting as Credentials Committee, to review them and prepare a report in time for the poll;

(d) Each party shall indicate its preference on a ballot prepared for this purpose, with a clear mark in the box adjacent to the name of the city that the party considers the most appropriate for the physical location of the permanent secretariat. The completed ballot shall be placed in a closed box during the plenary meeting;

(e) Once the voting process is concluded, the box will be opened in the presence of the Chairman of the Contact Group, the representatives of the three countries offering to host the permanent secretariat and the Executive Secretary. Ballots containing more than one mark or left blank will be considered invalid and will not be counted;

(f) If one of the cities obtains an absolute majority of valid preferences, it will be proposed as a consensus decision. If no city obtains a majority, a second and final round of voting will be carried out to elicit preferences between the two cities obtaining the most votes in the first round. The city obtaining the greatest number of votes in the second round will be proposed by the President as a consensus decision of the Conference on the same day. The detailed results of the poll will be kept secret.

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